

Please add the following new claims:

--9. (New) A method for notifying a driver of a vehicle having an adaptive cruise control, comprising the steps of:

(a) signaling that at least one of a maximum braking force and pressure controllable by the adaptive cruise control is being applied and a deceleration therefrom is not sufficient to automatically decelerate the vehicle in time and to a sufficient degree; and

(b) activating a request for taking control when at least two criteria relating to deceleration values are simultaneously satisfied.

10. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the at least two criteria include values corresponding to vehicle deceleration, one of the values being limited in accordance with at least one of a time-related change variable, a maximum steepness variable, and an absolute value variable.

11. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein a value of the at least one of the maximum braking force and pressure is changeable.

12. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein the value of the at least one of the maximum braking force and pressure is changeable as a function of at least one of a speed being instantaneously driven, road conditions and loading of the vehicle.

13. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the at least two criteria include at least three criteria, the request for taking control being activated in the activating step (b) when the at least three criteria are simultaneously satisfied.

14. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the criteria include a signal indicating that the adaptive cruise control is actively controlling the vehicle.

15. (New) The method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of:

(c) activating a request for taking control when one of at least one further condition is satisfied independent of the activating step (b).

16. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the further condition includes a signal indicating that an incorrect mode of operation of the adaptive cruise control has been detected.

17. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the request for taking control includes at least one of a warning activated over a minimum time, an elapsed minimum time between two warnings, a warning maintained until a minimum distance from a preceding vehicle is achieved, a warning maintained until a distance from the preceding vehicle is increasing, and a warning maintained until the driver intervenes by operating one of a gas pedal, a brake pedal and an on/off switch.

18. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the criteria includes at least one factor, the at least one factor one of predefined and variably calculated, the at least one factor converting a driver-selected driving program into an operating behavior of the ACC control automatic action.

19. (New) A device for notifying a driver of a vehicle having adaptive cruise control, to inform the driver of an activation of a request for taking control, the request for taking control signaling that one of a maximum braking force and a maximum braking pressure controllable by the adaptive cruise control is being applied and that a deceleration resulting therefrom is not sufficient to automatically decelerate the vehicle in time and to a sufficient degree, comprising: